PHONE No: 529

# KERALA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

CONGRESS HOUSE;
ERNAKULAM.

*Ref: No.* F-112/1366/57

22nd December 1957.

My Dear Dhebarji,

Your letter of the 13th regarding the claims of Mysore for a portion of Kasargode Taluk. I can assure you that I am in favour of an amicable and satisfactory settlement of these border issues. But as you have rightly pointed out, we the Congressmen in Kerala will be committing a taetical mistake if we take the initiative in this matter at this juncture. The Communists and other political parties are sure to take unfair advantage of our stand and will do everything in their power to turn public opinion against us. I, therefore, have suggested to our Mysore friends, that they must persuade the Communist Government which today has the official responsibility, to take the initiative in this matter. I am also conveying to the Chief Minister this view of mine. The Congress Organisation is struggling hard to strengthen itself and we should not do anything wiw which would invite popular displeasure, on us. Moreover we will have a by-election very soon in Devikulam-Peermade Constituency which has, you know, a majority of Tamil voters. If the border issue in Kasargode Taluk is reopened at our instance now the old demand for the cession of Devikulam to Tamil Nad is likely to be revived by the Tamils of the area and that would go very much against the Congress in the election. I would, therefore, request you to advise Mysore friends especially Shri Nijalingappa who has written to me about it not to insist on my taking any initiative in this matter immediately.

Yours sincerely,

(K.A. DAMODARA MENON)
PRESIDENT

PS:- I am sending herewith a statement on this matter issued a Muslim League Leader.

Shri U.N. Dhebar,
Congress President,
New Delhi.